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R 081456Z MAR 88 FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4841 INFO USIA WASHDC 7721 AMENBASSY BUDAPEST AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AMCONSUL MUNICH AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 01681

USIA FOR TV/P AND EU

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, HU, UR, FI

SUBJECT: FINNS AND HUNGARIANS PLAN CO-PRODUCTION ON

WALLENBERG

- 1. THE SWEDISH-LANGUAGE DAILY "HUFVUDSTADSBLADET" REPORTED MARCH 6 THAT THE FINNISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION (FBC) WILL CO-PRODUCE A SERIES OF RADIO PROGRAMS ON RADUL WALLENBERG, INCLUDING BOTH HIS WORK TO SAVE JEHS IN HUNGARY AND HIS "MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE" IN 1945.
- 2. THE FINNISH PRODUCER OF THE SERIES WILL BE KARMILA BELINSKI, WHO FIRST PROPOSED THE PROGRAMS LAST FALL AND WHO WILL HAVE TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT.
- 3. COMMENT: AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, THIS PROJECT IS UNIQUE IN LINKING THE HUNGARIANS TO A WESTERN-INITIATED SERIES ABOUT WALLENBERG AND HIS FATE. IT ALSO SHOWS UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THE FINNS, DESPITE ACCUSATIONS, DE SELF-CENSORSHIP

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IN THE PAST, ARE READY TO TAKE ON PROJECTS TOUCHING ON
SENSITIVE AREAS. AS THE NEWSPAPER NOTED, HUNGARIAN
INTEREST IN A CO-PRODUCTION SHOWS THAT AN INVESTIGATION
OF HALLENBERG'S FATE IS "ALSO OF CONCERN FOR HUNGARY."
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